

5 January 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 5 January 1981

Mr. Carlucci was in the chair. []

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Fitzwater noted that [] employees will be leaving the Agency this week, although not all are retirees. Fitzwater said he expects to lose up to [] people by the end of this month, however, [] new employees will EOD in January. []

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25X1

Mr. Carlucci mentioned the Sunday New York Times editorial (attached) on the Federal pay cap and commented that the President's recommended 5.5 percent pay increase for Federal employees may help eliminate the pay cap for senior Government officials. []

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Hitz told Mr. Carlucci that the House Appropriations S&I Team may attempt to get Chairman Jamie L. Whitten (D., MS) to call him regarding the Agency turn down of a S&I request for the bi-monthly and monthly reports on covert action (CA) that go to the DCI. In response to Mr. Carlucci's question, Hitz said the letter that McMahon signed refusing the S&I team request was satisfactory and that the rationale for the refusal was sources and methods. Hitz said that any deletion of sources and methods would make a response look like an FOIA action. Hitz said the S&I team request was based on a precedent established in 1976 when one of the team members was given access to all CA operational information. Mr. Carlucci said he would be prepared to give oral briefings on the subject. Hitz said we could expect to hear more on this, and he would pass all pertinent information on this to Mr. Carlucci. []

25X1

Mr. Carlucci mentioned General Haig's interview on TV this morning where he said it was his view that covert action was appropriate whenever U.S. national interests were to be safeguarded. Mr. Carlucci recommended that Silver prepare a paper on CA for his conveyance to the person at State Department who is preparing the background books for General Haig's confirmation hearings. []

25X1

Wortman announced he will retire on 16 January and will begin work at United Way of Virginia on 2 February. []

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SECRET

25X1

Clarke noted the extensive work being done by himself, Dick Lehman and the Senior Review Panel for John Bross. See Staff Meeting Minutes of 29 December. Mr. Carlucci said he would be meeting with Clarke and Lehman on this at a later time.

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Attachments:
As stated

25X1

SECRET

The New York Times

Founded in 1851

ADOLPH S. OCHS, Publisher 1896-1935
ARTHUR HAYS SULZBERGER, Publisher 1935-1961
ORVIL E. DRYFOOS, Publisher 1961-1963

ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER, Publisher
A. M. ROSENTHAL, Executive Editor
SEYMOUR TOPPING, Managing Editor
ARTHUR GELB, Deputy Managing Editor
JAMES L. GREENFIELD, Assistant Managing Editor
LOUIS SILVERSTEIN, Assistant Managing Editor
MAX FRANKEL, Editorial Page Editor
JACK ROSENTHAL, Deputy Editorial Page Editor
CHARLOTTE CURTIS, Associate Editor
TOM WICKER, Associate Editor
JOHN D. POMFRET, Sr. V.P., General Manager
JOHN MORTIMER, Sr. V.P., Industrial Relations
DONALD A. NIZEN, V.P., Consumer Marketing
JOHN O'BRIEN, V.P., Controller
LANCE B. PRIMIS, V.P., Advertising
J. A. RIGGS, JR., V.P., Operations

The Petty Politics of Federal Pay

Congress has always been shy about raising its own pay. And so it has adopted a petty, damaging attitude toward raises throughout the Government. It has by law linked top salaries in the judicial and executive branches to its own scale, allowing almost no official to make more money than a Congressman. Yet while Congressional standards of living remain high, inflation has degraded the pay of several thousand important judges and civil servants.

It is time that Congress uncoupled these pay scales. And a new Federal pay commission report gives it a first-rate basis for doing so.

As it did four years ago, the Commission on Legislative, Executive and Judicial Salaries, set up in 1968 to advise the President and take some of the heat off Congress for pay increases, suggests that the top salaries of each branch be considered separately. In addition, it calls for a commission report on Federal pay every two years instead of four — a good idea in a time of high inflation. And it calls on the President to conduct a special study of Federal pay, including fringe benefits and pensions.

This last proposal is pertinent. Congressional pay goes further than that of judges and administrators: members allow themselves more than \$8,000 in outside income. But there are complex limits on any outside income for judicial and executive branch employees and few, in any case, can command the easy lecture fees, say, of a Congressman. Meanwhile, Congressional fringe benefits, like free medical care, are often hidden — and considerable.

There are other inequities. While there is a ceiling on top salaries in the executive branch, subordinates have been getting raises that more nearly reflect inflation. The result has been a compression of the pay scales of seven different managerial ranks. If, by comparison, the pay of a police department's patrolmen, sergeants, lieutenants, captains and others were all the same as that of inspectors, inspectors would become demoralized. In the Federal Government, the pay com-

mission describes a "massive exodus of top officials who are resigning or retiring early."

Such a loss of talent could soon result in a decline of justice. Federal District judges, who made \$40,000 in 1968, now earn \$54,500; if that \$40,000 had kept up with inflation, they would now be making \$110,000. Small wonder that more and more are resigning to return to private practice — and that prospective judges are discouraged from accepting appointment.

Federal judges, it should be remembered, serve for life. That means a welcome guarantee of independence. It should not also mean a lifelong vow of poverty. Other appointed and elected officials can look forward to the possibility of some healthy private pay days once their public service ends. Not judges; if the public wants able, experienced and independent judges, it will have to pay them.

The pay commission also proposes raising Congressional pay to \$85,000. Supreme Court Justices, the commission says, should earn \$115,000; Federal District judges \$85,000; Cabinet members \$95,000, and other salaries should go up accordingly. The judicial and executive proposals are reasonable and necessary. Indeed, the only recommendation that seems needlessly generous is \$85,000 for Congressmen.

At the moment, it is up to President Carter to evaluate and perhaps modify these proposals and pass them on to Congress with his final budget. It would be a parting contribution to competence in Government for him to endorse them.

The Administration will probably consult with Mr. Reagan's advisers, as President Ford did with the incoming Carter Administration in 1977. Mr. Reagan's team has already learned, and deplored, the difficulty of attracting and keeping able people in Government at current levels of pay.

Congress will soon get a chance to grant itself a sizable raise. More important, it needs to show concern for the quality of other Federal employees, and for the health of the awesome institutions that they manage.

Fire and Water

Fire and water: bitter foes, yet capable of fruitful collaboration; each perilous to survival, yet each essential to life; each noticed in New York in 1980 as rarely before.

First, fire.

The loss of so many lives in Las Vegas, and Harrison, N.Y., demonstrated dangers hidden behind the drapes, inside the stairs and above the ceilings of many large, expensive modern buildings. The dangers that lurk in old ones were emphasized last month by an ugly Brooklyn tenement fire that took nine lives. All nine might have been saved if the woman who had lighted an exploding heater had closed the door to her apartment before running upstairs to warn her neighbors; fire and smoke spread through the doorway faster than the neighbors could get out.

Rebuilding New York to eliminate such dangers is impossible, but Charles Hynes, the new Fire Commissioner, is off to a practical start. He has our support in threatening to evacuate and close down noncomplying buildings open to the public.

There is room here for the simplest of resolutions on the part of every landlord, social agency and community group.

type of fire stairs from smoke intrusion. Back to the drawing boards, perhaps even back to the fire tower, that older but effective structure outside building walls and connected to every floor by an open passageway.

Now for water.

Every morning New Yorkers awaken to cheery broadcast weathermen who promise another day of sunshine or a mild, brief drizzle. The only truly cheerful prediction would be for two inches of rain, three times a week. The reservoirs are 36 percent full; they should be 75 percent full.

Since rainmakers are out of fashion, Commissioner Frank McArdle of the city's environmental department is doing the next best thing: reforming the water wasters.

Who are they? Those who think that because they pay nothing for water from the faucet, it costs nothing: those who flush away seven gallons of water simply to make a cigarette butt disappear; those who like to hear water gurgling down the sink while they brush their teeth: those who turn on half-empty, dish-

Letters

Misgu

To the Editor:

The President National Agency forfeited its claim recommendation of urban police migration.

To state that the "old industrial urban areas" are "outdated." The commission draw flawed of the monopoly of the can manufacture. Economic this to be the case they identified turning to the South to California and

In the late 50s urban and industrial beginning to decline. Ring," extending seacoasts and Lakes. The older cities have much due to the exploit geographical rather due to the structural crum infrastructure and nets for the poor and the uncoupled social problems middle class the suburbs of the country.

Foreign- For the I

To the Editor:

Not so many Nixon, whose on an obse flew to China. He could take tive because tials protect from the right trip, his re-ele

President same position couple of years ward rappro appealing. Fous that Rea cuts, many b a balanced b and that the dle complex draft to supp gan will nee arms race, a ant publicity

So don't be 1982 we see a "Reagan FI SALT IV."

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Carter's

To the Editor:

Like Dwight Carter will e for the mista

Not oppos Iran. Not ov in Afghanis generals in popular rev feeding infla cratic Party to oligopoly out a windfa out Alaska. tion, Israel the Cubans. Can

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